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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED**

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Applicant:	Ok, et al.	Art Unit:	5748
Serial No.:	09/783,236 823,464	Examiner:	Nguyen
Filed:	March 30, 2001		
Docket No.:	S116-USA		
For:	Method and Apparatus for Providing Hermetic Electrical Feedthrough		

Assistant Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner of Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on: August 8, 2005



Scott B. Dunbar**AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 9, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1 - 36 are pending in the present application. All claims are subject to a restriction requirement. By teleconference with the Examiner on September 30, 2004, applicant elected group I, claims 1 - 17. Applicant confirms that election. Claims 1 - 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Mizuhara (US Patent 5,386,220) in view of Chirino (US

Patent 3,999,004).

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to better distinguish applicant's invention. Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 17 are dependent from claims 1 and 8 and are believed to be patentable due to amendment to claims 1 and 8. Claims 18 - 36 have been withdrawn without prejudice.

The Examiner states that Mizuhara teaches "fabricating a hermetic electrical feedthrough comprising providing an unfired ceramic sheet". However, Mizuhara, in the abstract, describes the ceramic sheet as presintered. It is the fact that applicant's ceramic is not prefired or presintered that makes applicant's invention distinct. The sintering process causes important effects. The ceramic shrinks around the metal causing a physical compression seal, and the ceramic is allowed to migrate into the metal (and metal into the ceramic) to cause a molecular bond. Neither effect will be present with a presintered ceramic.

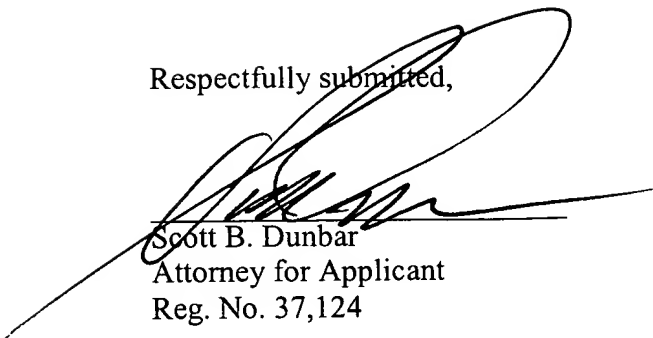
Further, the dimensions stated in the dependent claims are more than mere design choices. As the material barrier get thinner, it become more difficult to create a hermetic seal. The method described in Mizuhara would not create a reliable hermetic seal if less than 40 mils thick. Only applicant's invention provides a hermetic seal in such small dimensions.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 to describe the ceramic material as un-sintered, to more specifically point out a distinctly claim applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance and the Examiner believes that a telephone conference may be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (818) 833-5055 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

August 8, 2005



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